



Office of the Research Vice President
Office of the Vice President of International Affairs
Office of Pastoral and Christian Culture
Center for Dialogue and Peace

XXI RESEARCH AND CREATION GRANTS COMPETITION FOR ACADEMICS

*«Artisans of Peace open to dialogue»
(Pope Francis, cf. Fratelli Tutti)*

The Center of Pastoral and Christian Culture (Pastoral), in collaboration with the Center for Dialogue and Peace (Center) and the Office of the Research Vice President (VRI) and the Office of the Vice President of International Affairs (VRAI) at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC), is delighted to announce the 21st edition of the Research and Creation Grants Competition for Academics (Call for Proposals).

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the encyclical *Pacem in terris*, and challenged by the national and global events, this Call invites university academics to work generously and tirelessly in the construction of peace, following the call of Pope Francis to be true artisans of peace "by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls" (Fratelli tutti, n. 284).

The theme of this call for proposals is an invitation to "open the paths of dialogue in order to be artisans of peace" (Fratelli tutti, n. 284), that is, to work together for solutions that benefit everyone, based on the knowledge and techniques of each discipline and always in dialogue with others.

We invite you to embrace peace as a common goal, not to pay lip service to it, but to move towards peace based on working together and on "establishing new relationships in human society, under the mastery and guidance of truth, justice, charity and freedom" (*Pacem in terris*, n. 163).

1. OBJECTIVES

1.1. General Objective: Encourage UC faculty members to contribute to the mission¹ of this institution by developing research and/or creative projects that create a dialogue between the various disciplines and Christian values.

¹ "The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile aspires to achieve excellence in the creation and transfer of knowledge and in the education of people, inspired by a Catholic vision and always at the service of the Church and society" (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile's Mission).

1.2. Specific Objective: Promote academic cooperation, either within UC or between national and/or foreign universities², through common research or creative projects that seek to build peace through dialogue.

These research or creative projects are expected to generate concrete opportunities for future collaboration, through applications to other internal or external funds; participation in broader initiatives, student degrees with co-directed theses and joint publications, among other achievements.

2. REQUIREMENTS

2.1. Originality: The projects submitted must be both original and unpublished, although they may draw upon prior research, creations, and/or publications.

2.2. Catholic Identity: The projects submitted must have a strong Catholic identity. This implies that, in its basis, objectives, and/or outcomes, the project fulfills at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) Recognizing the transcendent dimension inherent in human realities, acknowledging their openness to the presence of God, or achieving a more profound understanding by incorporating these dimensions from a Catholic perspective.
- (2) Furthering understanding or application of the elements of Christian thought and the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- (3) Assisting in expressing the Catholic faith in a more current, effective, and culturally appropriate manner.

2.3. Applicants:

2.3.1. Principal Investigator: Any UC professor who belongs to the regular, adjunct or special staff, and who has at least 22 contractual hours, may participate in this capacity³.

2.3.1.1 Only one application will be accepted per faculty member, as the Principal Investigator.

2.3.1.2 The Principal Investigator must remain in charge of the project until its end. Resignation or absence from the University for more than three consecutive months will result in automatic project cancellation and restitution of funds to the Pastoral.

2.3.2. Co-investigator: Any UC faculty member may participate as co-investigator. Faculty members may apply to more than one project as co-investigator.

2.4. Team: When forming the team, the project submitted should consider only one of the following categories:

2.4.1. Inclusion at the UC level, incorporating **ONLY** one or more UC professors to the team as co-investigators.

2.4.2. Inclusion at the national level, incorporating one or more professors from other Chilean universities as co-investigators.

² John Paul II, Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities Ex Corde Ecclesiae (August 15, 1990) n.35.

³ For all categories, the contract hours requirement is only for the Principal Investigator.

2.4.3 Inclusion at the international level, incorporating one or more professors from foreign universities to the team as co-investigators.

2.5. Sponsorship: The Principal Investigator must have the support of the Dean or Director of the School/Institute through the mandatory UC Investigator's Declaration (DOI as per its Spanish acronym) (refer to 8.2.3). In the case of proposals involving researchers from different UC academic units, the support of each of them must be provided through the DOI.

2.6. Letter of Commitment: Faculty members from other Chilean or foreign universities who apply as co-investigators must sign a letter of commitment to conduct the project in which they wish to participate (refer to 8.2.4).

2.6.1. This document should outline the contributions that the professor's university will make to the specific project.

2.7. Ethical Project Approval: All projects submitted to this Call for Proposals must adhere to the UC's regulations governing Scientific Ethical Committees (CEC, as per its Spanish acronym). To facilitate this, the project's comprehensive background information must be initially entered into the evaluation platform: <https://evaluacionetica.uc.cl>, as outlined in **point 8.2.5**.

Upon application to this Call, please ensure that either the certificate of receipt of documents (available for download on the specified site) and/or the certificate of exemption from ethics review (obtainable through a direct request to the UC Ethics Unit via email at eticadeinvestigacion@uc.cl) is attached, as applicable. The UC CECs will await the decision of this Call before proceeding with the ethics evaluation process.

For any general inquiries pertaining to ethics evaluation, kindly direct your queries to eticadeinvestigacion@uc.cl

2.8. Acceptance of the Grant Guidelines: Applying to this Call for Proposals implies the acceptance of guidelines by all the applicants.

3. BENEFITS OF PROJECT AWARD

3.1. Table: Maximum funding per project, according to category.

Categories	Research ⁴	Creation ⁵
UC		\$ 3,000,000 CLP
National		\$ 4,000,000 CLP
International		\$ 5,000,000 CLP

⁴ "Research is defined as systematic endeavors aimed at discovering new knowledge with significant implications for the relevant discipline, subject, or area. The outcomes of these activities are communicated through publications or patents" (CNA-Chile).

⁵ Creation is defined as "academic projects that lead to an artistic work, encompassing the entire creative process, from research for creation and/or practice-based research, to the production and exhibition of the work(s) for the public" (UC Office of Art and Culture)

3.2. The awarded projects will be eligible for the benefit of having one or more⁶ assistants financed through the Student Research Competition, which is carried out by the Pastoral together with the VRI.

4. OTHER BUDGETARY ASPECTS

4.1. The distributions and amounts proposed by the researchers are subject to approval by the Awards Committee. The committee will assess the proposed amounts for each category, considering factors such as feasibility and relevance in fund allocation.

4.2. Upon the project being awarded and the corresponding agreement being signed, the entire approved budget will be transferred to the academic unit of the Principal Investigator.

4.3. The transfer of funds to the Principal Investigator and the presentation of the budget will be carried out by the director or deputy director of economic and administrative affairs of the unit associated with the Principal Investigator.

4.4. Eligible expenses for funding include operating costs, fees for research assistants, and expenses related to seminars.

4.5. Costs associated with international and national mobility⁷ (travel and related expenses for professors, post-doctoral students, and/or undergraduate and graduate students) will be funded, provided they are appropriately justified based on the project's objectives.

4.6. The acquisition of capital goods will not be funded unless deemed indispensable for the project's nature, in which case it will be subject to evaluation by the committee (**refer to 4.1.**). In such cases, the assets acquired with the budget become part of UC's assets, but the researcher retains usage rights for the project's duration.

4.7. No professional fees of any kind will be covered for the Principal Investigators or co-investigators.

4.8. Any changes to the initial project budget must be formally requested and approved by the Pastoral, represented by its research coordinator. Requests should be submitted in writing to investigacion.pastoral@uc.cl.

4.9. Other participating Chilean or foreign institution(s) have the option to provide financial and/or non-financial contributions to support the project's objectives. These contributions will be detailed in the letter of commitment (**refer to 8.2.4.**) and reflected in the budget specified in the application form (**refer to 8.2.1.**), clearly indicating the source (internal UC, national, or foreign).

5. PROJECT OWNERSHIP

5.1. If Pastoral support is required for activities related to disseminating the project results or any part thereof, such a need must be communicated to the research coordinator at least one month in advance. This communication should be addressed in writing to investiga.pastoral@uc.cl.

5.2. Any product arising from a research project awarded under this competition must appropriately acknowledge the contributions of the VRI, VRAI, and Pastoral. The acknowledgment should include the following statement: "Project funded by the XXI Research and Creation Grants Competition for

⁶ The maximum number of students funded will be evaluated depending on the applicants and available funds.

⁷ Air travel is limited to economy class.

Academics, organized by the Office of Pastoral and Christian Culture in conjunction with the Center for Dialogue and Peace, the Office of the Research Vice President, and the Office of the Vice President of International Affairs of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile."

6. EVALUATION AND DECISION PROCESS

6.1. Projects will undergo assessment by academic peer reviewers⁸, assigning a grade from 1 to 7 based on the following criteria and weightings:

Criteria	Weighting %
Quality and originality of the proposal	30
Feasibility of execution	20
Catholic identity ⁹ and current relevance	40
Team collaboration projection	10

6.2. A selection committee, appointed by the Pastoral, will be formed based on the thematic areas of the projects within this Call for Proposals. This committee will be chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Vice President for Research, Vice President of International Affairs, and the Director of the UC Center for Dialogue and Peace.

6.3. Upon conclusion of the evaluation process, the Awards Committee will thoroughly review the projects. The selection will be determined based on the scores obtained during the evaluation and the budget allocated for this Call for Proposals.

7. COMMITMENTS AND OUTCOMES¹⁰

7.1. Outreach Panel Presentation

7.1.1. In March of the year following the award and agreement signing, each investigator is required to present their project alongside fellow researchers in a dissemination panel. Priority will be given to the project's relevance and its connection with the objective of this Call. The emphasis will be on fostering dialogue among researchers and engaging with individuals interested in the projects.

7.2. Progress Reporting

7.2.1. Within six months of signing the agreement, the Principal Investigator must submit a progress report. The report format will be provided after the agreement is finalized.

7.2.2. Upon receipt of the progress report, the necessary document formats for project closure will be sent. These include the final report, financial report, and article requirements for the [Diálogos Magazine](#).

⁸ An academic related to and/or experienced in the subject matter. If the Principal Investigator perceives a potential conflict of interest with individuals who might serve as peer reviewers, this should be noted in the "Letter of Conflict of Interest" available in Annex II of the application form (refer to 8.2.1.). This information will be treated as strictly confidential and safeguarded by the Pastoral, VRI, and VRAI teams.

⁹ Refer to point 2.2

¹⁰ Projects selected in this Call are expected to actively engage in seminars or other forms of dissemination and outreach within the UC community.

7.3. Project closure

7.3.1. Twelve months after the agreement signing, the Principal Investigator is required to submit the final report detailing the completed work. The specific format for this report will be sent after the agreement has been finalized.

7.3.2. At least one representative from each team must attend a concluding meeting, aiming to share project experiences and collect conclusions related to the faith-reason dialogue.

7.4. Dissemination of Results

7.4.1. Upon project completion, a dissemination article for publication in [Diálogos Magazine](#) (in either print or web versions) will be requested. The article format will be sent via email upon receipt of the progress report (**refer to 7.2.2**).

7.4.2. For creation projects, the submission of records such as photographs, recordings, and/or videos capturing the audition/exhibition/mounting of the project is required. This documentation, as specified in the application, serves to showcase the final result of the work.

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the Call for Proposals must follow these steps:

8.1. Complete the **registration** form [HERE](#)

8.1.1. After registration, the Principal Investigator will receive an email explaining the application steps.

8.2. **Compilation of Documents:** The following documents will be required:

8.2.1. Application Form¹¹: Download the form [HERE](#)

8.2.2. Provide an updated **curriculum vitae** for all participating academics (UC and external), limited to a maximum of 5 pages each in a free format.

8.2.3. Submit the **DOI** signed by the Dean or Director of School or Institute (**refer to 2.5.**), according to the downloadable format [HERE](#)

8.2.4. Provide **Letter(s) of Commitment (refer to 2.6.)** for faculty members or co-investigators from other universities (national or foreign) in the downloadable format [HERE](#)

8.2.5. Attach the **Certificate of Receipt of Documents** of UC Ethics and Security and/or the certificate of exemption from ethics review, as explained in **point 2.7.** of the terms and conditions.

8.2.6. Include any other relevant annexed documents based on the project's characteristics.

¹¹ The application form must be completed and submitted in Spanish.

8.3. Online Application: After compiling the necessary documents, attach them to the online application form. This form will request information about the project and the team. The link to this form will be sent via email after registration in the Call (**refer to 8.1.1.**).

9. RELEVANT DATES

– Opening of the registration/application period	:	November 15, 2023
– Closing of the registration period	:	December 28, 2023
– Closing of the application period	:	January 11, 2024
– Evaluation process	:	January - April 2024
– Delivery of competition results	:	May 2024
– Signing of agreements	:	May 2024
– Award Ceremony	:	June 2024
– Project start-up	:	June 2024
– Submission of progress report	:	January 2025
– Presentation at dissemination panel	:	TBD
– Submission of final report	:	July 2025
– Article submission	:	July 2025
– Final meeting	:	TBD

10. CONTACT

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